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Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017

High -7°C/Low -14°C Snow showers 

FOCUS ON ASYLUM SEEKERS



LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

WANTED: NEWCOMERS

Meet the former refugee who's helping other refugees find jobs in Winnipeg **metroNEWS**

Betting on Canada

LEGAL AID

Why some refugee claimants may find more success here than in the U.S.

Bundled against bone-chilling cold, asylum-seekers hoping to gain refugee status in Canada have been trudging through ditches and fields along the border with the United States.

Many have already had refugee or asylum claims turned down in the U.S. and feel they may have more success in Canada. That assumption, say some immigration lawyers, is correct.

"I think that there is a lack of access to justice (for claimants in the United States)," said Bashir Khan, an immigration lawyer in Winnipeg.

"In most of Canada, you do get a legal-aid assigned lawyer. You're not put in immigration detention, so you are able to make long-distance calls to gather evidence that your lawyer may tell you is needed."

Alastair Clarke, another immigration lawyer in the city, said he has represented people who have been rejected

in the United States but are accepted in Canada.

"It happens regularly," he said.

"In the United States, there's a much higher rate of detention and when the individual is detained, it's much more difficult for them to access counsel. They have limited rights to legal counsel for legal advice, and the counsel who do represent them are often lawyers who don't specialize in (immigration)."

Statistics provided by the Immigration and Refugee Board show refugee claims from people fleeing some countries are approved more often than not. The statistics include all claims, not just those from people entering via the U.S.

The numbers are only for people who make their refugee claim at official

border crossings or within Canada after getting across the border — not people who apply from abroad. And they only cover claims that have already been screened for eligibility by the Canada Border Services Agency or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Some claimants arrive in Canada after making a trip across three continents along what has become a modern underground railroad.

Mohammed, a refugee claimant from Ghana who did not want his last name used, walked across the border near Emerson-Franklin in Manitoba last fall after flying from Africa to Brazil and on to Ecuador. He then spent three months making his way north on buses, a boat and on foot, he said, until he entered the United States near San Diego. He planned on making a new home in the U.S.

At the California border, he was put in a detention centre for 10 months and his claim was rejected, he said. He could not get a lawyer and was unprepared for the hearing, he added.

"You don't have any access to anything you cannot make a call to get whatever you have to to support your case."

"You're going to sit there. You, alone, meet a judge and a government lawyer who's a prosecutor." THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ BY THE NUMBERS


In the first nine months of 2016, **54 per cent** of claims from people who cited persecution in Ghana were approved.

Two-thirds of Somalia-related claims were OKed.

The success rate for people fleeing Djibouti was more than **90 per cent**.

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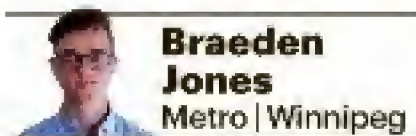
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What a million-dollar home in Winnipeg would look like

REAL ESTATE

Millionaires get most ‘bang for your buck’ in the city



The Barenaked Ladies should have just said they'd buy a house in Winnipeg.

According to a new report by Royal LePage, that would be the best way to spend a million dollars — that is, if a house tops the list.

Following a year of record home value highs in some parts of the country, the Canadian real estate company compared the types of properties available in major cities for \$1 million in January 2017.

Of those examined, Winnipeg offered the most “bang for your buck,” according to the report and Winnipeg realtor Michael Froese.

Froese explained that while spending a mil’ on little more than a starter home is normal in hot markets Toronto and Vancouver, it gets homebuyers a lot more in the river city.

“One million dollars buys you a heck of a lot more in Winnipeg — more square footage, more bedrooms, more bathrooms, bigger lot, higher luxury,” he said. “(Our find-



Winnipeg

In Winnipeg, the average \$1 million two-storey home had 4.1 bedrooms, 4.0 bathrooms, 3,505 sq. ft. of living area and a lot size of 13,453 sq. ft.

ings) were consistent with how Winnipeg has been for years.”

The Royal LePage report details how million-dollar homes vary wildly in size from coast to coast, from 2.6 bedrooms in Vancouver, to 3.1 bedrooms in Halifax, or a segment-leading 4.1 bedrooms in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg’s average overall living space for the sum is 3,505 sq. ft., far greater than the comparatively diminutive 1,229 sq. ft. for the same amount in Vancouver.

However, not many people shopping for a house in Winnipeg are looking to spend

seven figures.

Since January 2016, only 40 homes have sold in the million dollar range in Winnipeg, so the millionaire market isn’t the hottest around these parts, but Froese said the value for money “trickles up.”

With an average home price

that hovers around \$300,000, Froese explained how looking at the upper end of the real estate market illustrates how “Winnipeg is the most affordable large city in Canada.”

He said the local real estate market also offers good return, offering an average increase

of 6.6 per cent annually all but three years since Royal LePage started tracking the market in 1977.

“If it was a publicly traded stock Warren Buffet would be buying,” Froese joked. “Is it sustainable? It’s proven to be that way for over 40 years... there’s no bubble, we’re not crashing.”

Entry-level homes costing a little more than \$250,000 make up around 40 per cent of local home sales, by far the largest segment.

Without painting homebuyers with the same brush, Froese said within a decade people investing in that hot segment are typically able to move up into the \$400,000 to \$600,000 range.

“Our entry level market doing so well gives people the option to move up... they’re gaining equity quickly, walking away with large chunks that enable them to (upgrade),” he said. “That strength starts the foundation of our market.”

Froese said he believes the affordability gives Winnipeg an edge in courting first-time buyers.

“Winnipeg is an up-and-coming city, you can live very well here pretty affordably — that’s very attractive, and what fuels housing demand is attractiveness,” he said.

“When it’s desirable it all goes up, and Winnipeg is becoming more and more desirable.”



Calgary

In Calgary, the average property selling for \$1 million had 3.3 bedrooms, 2.8 bathrooms, 2,477 sq. ft. of living area and a lot size of 7,004 sq. ft.



Greater Vancouver

Near Vancouver, the average \$1 million home had 3.7 bedrooms, 3.2 bathrooms, 2,166 sq. ft. of living area and a lot size of 8,149 sq. ft.



Toronto

In the Greater Toronto Area, the average \$1 million two-storey home had 3.8 bedrooms, 2.9 bathrooms, 2,363 sq. ft. of living area and a lot size of 8,168 sq. ft.



Halifax

In Halifax, the average \$1 million home had 3.1 bedrooms, 3.8 bathrooms, 3,316 sq. ft. of living area and 43,521 sq. ft. lot size.

LABOUR

Stop the excuses and give women equal pay

INSIDE THE PERIMETER

Shannon VanRaes



Some days it evolves into a simmering rage as I go about my work — the knowledge that for every dollar a Canadian man earns, a Canadian woman is still paid an average of 74 cents.

Since childhood, we're sold the falsehood that if you work hard you will be rewarded. But the truth is that even in our so-called developed and egalitarian nation men are worth 26 cents more out of the gate.

Yes, the excuses defending unequal pay have softened since the advent of the women's movement. No employer explicitly tells women they are going to be paid less because they have a vagina, at least not in so many words, but the message is the same.

"Women just choose to work in sectors that pay less!" Um, no. In fact, female dominated industries are consistently undervalued and underpaid, purely because they're dominated by women.

"Women earn less because they take time out to have children!" Right, because ensuring the future of the human race is a completely selfish endeavour, adding nothing to a woman's skills and they should be penalized for it.

And my favourite excuse? "Women just need to ask for more money! Like hey, did you ever just ask your boss to pay you more?" No, I never thought about asking for more money! Thanks for the suggestion, man.

I'll tell you what women want, women want equal pay. But how to achieve that goal remains a challenge.

In essence, women facing the largest wage disparity are those least able to participate in tomorrow's Day Without a Woman strike. Yes, action is desperately needed, but so is solidarity and inclusion.

As much as I'd like to be a part of what may well be a historic day in the unforgiving slog towards gender equality, I won't be able to participate either. But the fight for equality is far from over. I just hope the next battle cry is one with the ability to rally all troops.

IN BRIEF

City eyes off-leash dog park in St. Boniface

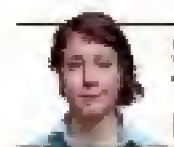
Dog walkers in St. Boniface could soon have a new place for their pooches to run free. On Monday, the four-councillor committee on protection, community services and parks referred a request to open a new off-

leash park in East Norwood to those public servants developing a master plan for dog parks. Once approved, the document would provide a set of guidelines as to how the city should manage its rec spaces for dogs. There are 11 off-leash areas in the city. STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

No mandatory bike helmets for adults

TRANSPORTATION

Committee votes to review city's cycling safety rules



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Adult cyclists in Winnipeg won't be forced to strap on a helmet anytime soon.

On Monday, the city's protection, community services and parks committee voted 3-1 to accept a review on local cycling safety measures.

Written by Stephanie Whitehouse, the city's active transportation coordinator, the report lists the merit of helmet usage, bike lights and bells, but recommends no change to the current rules or enforcement approach.

Last summer, committee member Coun. Russ Wyatt requested a review on the requirement for all cyclists to wear helmets.

The best thing for reducing injury, according to Whitehouse's report, is "designing cycling routes separated from vehicles."

She believes the city could do more to improve cycling safety by building more protected bike lanes and promoting education, rather than force adult cyclists to wear helmets.

"We are, again, focused on improvements to prevent inci-



Jason Bekolay cycles to work in Winnipeg on Wednesday. Stephanie Whitehouse, the city's active transportation co-ordinator, is calling for better infrastructure to make streets safer for cyclists, as well as better education on road safety. DAVID LIPNOWSKI/METRO



We are, again, focused on improvements to prevent incidents.

Stephanie Whitehouse

dents from happening in the first place," said Whitehouse to reporters, underlining the need for protected bike lanes, design improvements to intersections and more education around road safety.

Besides the Winnipeg Police

Service and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the city's legal services department and members of the public would need to be consulted on the matter, said Whitehouse.

She added that councillors would also have to approve funnelling away funds from active transportation to pay for such a review.

Committee chairman Coun. Mike Pagtakhan agrees with Whitehouse's stance that cycling should be made safer through better infrastructure, like dedicated bike routes.

He pointed to the work being done through the 20-year

\$334-million pedestrian and cycling strategy.

"What our challenge is, is to create safe cycling routes," Pagtakhan said.

Wyatt said he felt Monday's report was lacking and side-stepped his initial request.

To him, a bigger issue was the public works department's decision to hire a consulting firm owned by Jeannette Montufar, whose marriage to transportation manager Luis Escobar and past tweets about Wyatt prompted a conflict-of-interest investigation by the city's auditor at the same time the report was being prepared.



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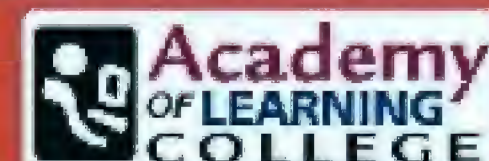
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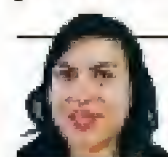
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FOCUS ON ASYLUM SEEKERS

From refugee to an employee

EMPLOYMENT

New website, Immigrant Centre helping job search



Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro|Winnipeg

For former refugee Omar Rahimi, a permanent move to Canada was a godsend.

Finding a job was his toughest challenge upon arrival in Manitoba, he said, but it didn't compare to what he faced living in the Al Tash refugee camp in western Iraq for almost two decades.

"I was thirsty for 18 years. I remember every day I was thirsty. You drink a little bit, but it's not enough," Rahimi said in an interview Monday.

"We were going to die. Many, many of our people died and many of my friends were recruited into al-Qaida and the American war in 2003, 2004," he said. "A lot of my friends died and a lot of them were beheaded."

Rahimi made the trip to Canada in December 2001 thanks

to a federal government sponsorship.

He worked various labour jobs before founding his own painting company, Beautiful Canada Painting, in 2010.

Learning new languages at the refugee camp helped Rahimi find work in Winnipeg. (He speaks Kurdish, Farsi, Arabic and English.) And he has since helped hundreds of other refugees and new immigrants find employment in the city thanks to his translating skills, he said.

"When people come here... they know how to work hard and they need somebody to guide them. I just did it on my own and it took me years until I learned the system," Rahimi said.

He's continuing to help others, albeit in a more official way now with a new website — hirearefugee.ca — launched last week.

Co-created with Bob Axworthy, president of RDA Consulting, the website aims to pair employers with employees, mostly in the hands-on labour sectors.

Immigrant Centre Manitoba is also focused on finding work for newcomers and is bracing for an onset of requests as more refugee claimants walk across the border.



Omar Rahimi is co-creator of hirearefugee.ca and a former refugee from Iraq. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

Amie Membreno, manager of employment services, said on average, the Immigrant Centre helps 10 to 15 asylum seekers find jobs per year.

But they're expecting a "huge

increase" in the coming months considering the influx of refugee claimants arriving from the United States.

"We're trying to put them in positions where they're go-

ing to feel comfortable, where they're going to be excited about the job. But it's also going to be a job that they're able to do," Membreno said.

Many of the centre's clients



When people come here ... they know how to work hard.

Omar Rahimi

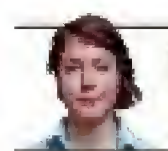
wind up taking first jobs in the service, manufacturing or construction industries, as they develop their English skills, she said.

Membreno said the Immigrant Centre has worked with about 1,300 employers in the past, but is always on the lookout for more people willing to hire refugees. Those interested can find more information on their website, icmanitoba.com.

"Sometimes we have to overcome a little bit of apprehension from employers that are worried about what's going to happen long-term," she said. "We really do try and advocate for our clients and really show the employer just how hard working they are."

"You can imagine if they've gone to the lengths they have just to get to Canada, when they get here they're really going to make sure they make a success of life."

Manitoba MP targeting Trudeau over asylum seekers



Stephanie Taylor
Metro|Winnipeg

The Conservative MP for Emerson, Man., is taking aim at Justin Trudeau over the number of asylum seekers crossing the U.S.-Canada border near the small town and using the prime minister's own words to do so.

In a video posted to Facebook on Saturday, Ted Falk delivers a statement to Trudeau while standing at the border near Emerson-Franklin where RCMP confirm 183 people have walked into Manitoba so far this year.

Falk asks Trudeau to clarify his message "Welcome to Canada," which was posted to Twitter in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban that targeted travellers from seven Muslim majority countries.

"Is this an open invitation for folks that want to illegally cross into Canada to come here and take advantage of our generous immigration and refugee policy?" Falk says in the video.



Ted Falk, the Conservative MP for Emerson. THE CANADIAN PRESS

He then asks Trudeau to "set the record straight" and say whether he approves of the illegal crossings.

"Mr. Prime Minister, was your invitation restricted to legal means of immigrating to Canada or did it also include illegal entry into Canada and come any way you want?" says Falk.

"If you oppose these illegal

entries, then let Canadians know that you're going to close the loophole that is allowing for folks to come across the border here illegally and abuse our very generous immigration and refugee policies."

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale visited Emerson over the weekend, promising new money to help handle the surge of refugee claimants.

Jungles, camps, detention: The journey for asylum

Many African asylum-seekers who end up in Canada face an arduous, months-long journey through thousands of kilometres of jungle, along back roads and over water in small wooden boats.

Stays in migrant camps along the way often culminate with a lengthy period in a U.S. immigration detention centre.

It's a modern underground railroad with organized networks of smugglers plotting paths through South and Central America to help — often for hefty fees — people fleeing Somalia, Ghana, Djibouti and other countries.

"The smugglers, right from Africa, they define the routes," said Francisco Rico-Martinez of the FCJ Refugee Centre in Toronto, a non-profit group that advocates for and provides support services to newcomers.

"They have contacts in Latin America and they define the routes. And they change the routes depending on how (government) policies change."

Rico-Martinez recently visited Central America and saw the tide of migrants first-hand.

Mohammed, a 31-year-old

refugee claimant from Ghana who did not want to reveal his last name, followed the underground railroad starting in July 2014. He flew to Brazil, then to Ecuador. Some South American countries do not require visas for short-term visitors.

Heading to the southern continent makes for a long, dangerous journey on the ground afterward, but it's one of the few feasible starting points.

By bus and on foot, migrants follow a route north into their first big geographical hurdle — the Darien Gap on the border between Colombia and Panama. It's a dense jungle and has no roads.

Mohammed said he skirted the jungle by going up the coast in a boat. He was crammed into a small wooden craft with several others and covered with a tarp for a seven-hour trip in the darkness.

"The boat is not a safe boat. It's like a wood one with a small (engine) on the back," he recalled recently.

"We are just risking our lives to save (them)."

Mohammed said he spent two days walking through the dense jungle in Panama afterward. Mamood, who left Ghana separately and now shares an apartment in Winnipeg with Mohammed and other recent arrivals, said he spent five days in that jungle.

Mohammed said he was detained a couple of times while travelling through Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, but was let go after a week or so.

Some three months after leaving Ecuador, Mohammed said, he arrived at the Mexico-U.S. border south of San Diego to claim asylum. He said his claim was denied and he moved to New York.

Mohammed said he took a bus to Minneapolis, a cab to North Dakota, and walked seven hours in the cold to Emerson-Franklin, Man.

It had been more than two years after his journey started.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The smugglers ... define the routes.

Francisco Rico-Martinez

Our leaders need to take action

Onus is on our politicians to name the issues and commit to fixing them

FOR METRO

Tristan Cleveland



How are we supposed to solve a problem politicians won't talk about?

In response to Judge Lenehan's shocking acquittal of a taxi driver for sexual assault last week, Premier Stephen McNeil has said nothing. Justice Minister Diana Whalen says they are "considering options."

Prime Minister Trudeau says they have "work to do."

What we haven't heard is a decisive commitment to structural reform to stop the slew of disgraceful sexual assault decisions in the news recently.

It's generally appropriate for politicians to defer to judges on legal matters, but when cases highlight systemic problems, it's up to our political leaders to name the issues and commit to fixing them.

Our prime minister and premier can and should state clearly that rules must be put in place to ensure judges are adequately trained to give sexual assault victims fair trials. Judge Gregory Lenehan appears to have thought that a person must be unconscious to be legally considered too incapacitated to give consent. That's simply not true.

Rona Ambrose, interim leader of the Conservative Party, has put forward legislation to require exactly this kind of training for all

judges.

Trudeau should work with the opposition to pass this bill.

Dalhousie Law Professor Wayne McKay proposes we do one better and create a court specialized in sexual assault cases, as has been done in the United Kingdom and several states in the United States. That way, lawyers, prosecutors and judges involved could all have consistent experience in sexual assault law.

They could also have greater, "skills and training in not retraumatizing the victim." That's crucial. Not only is it difficult to convict in sexual assault cases, the experience of the trials is often terrible. As a result, the rate of women who report sexual assaults to

police has dropped by more than half since its peak in 1992, according to the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Nationally, only 8 per cent of these crimes are reported.

Of the sexual assault cases reported to police in Halifax, 27 per cent led to charges, compared to 40 per cent for other violent crimes. When you add in the conviction rate, only a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of people who commit sexual assaults face legal consequences.

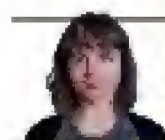
Meanwhile, 100 per cent of sexually assaulted women live with the consequences.

Women need to be able to walk on our streets and use our taxis with the full knowledge that the legal system has their back.



Chrissy Merrigan is co-organizing a protest on Tuesday afternoon against Judge Gregory Lenehan's comments in a recent sexual assault verdict. ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

Protesters planning to voice 'outrage'



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

"You can feel the outrage in the city."

That's what Chrissy Merrigan said about why she became involved in co-organizing a march expected to draw hundreds to downtown Halifax on Tuesday afternoon.

The event was created to protest Judge Gregory Lene-

han's comments, including "clearly a drunk can consent," in acquitting cab driver Basam Al-Rawi of sexual assault last Wednesday.

"You could feel the outrage the next day... It's all that anybody could talk about," Merrigan said.

More than 1,000 people have committed on Facebook to attending, with more than 2,400 expressing interest. Although that doesn't mean those numbers will hit the

streets, Merrigan said the quick and overwhelming response shows people are frustrated.

Organizers want the Crown to appeal Lenehan's ruling, and want an investigation into his handling of the case.

They opted to organize the protest during work hours to make a point.

Organizers want the Crown to appeal Lenehan's ruling, and want an investigation into his handling of the case.

They opted to organize the protest during work hours to make a point.

"We need to make noise during the day when people are downtown... We really wanted the people who are in the courthouse and the people in the system to know that we are upset," Merrigan said.

"After 5 o'clock they're gone home, they're making dinner with their families, they're not there to see it, and that's who needs to make the change."

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Revised ban leaves refugees confused

IMMIGRATION

Order gets rid of some more contentious aspects

It's been an emotional roller coaster for Mahmoud Mansour and his family, Syrian refugees tapped for possible resettlement to the United States, since President Donald Trump issued his first travel ban six weeks ago.

The original ban, which barred Syrian refugees from the U.S. until further notice, devastated Mansour's family of six, which has been undergoing security vetting ahead of resettlement for the past year.

The revised ban, signed by President Donald Trump without fanfare on Monday, no longer singles out displaced Syrians, but suspends the entire refugee program for four months to allow for a security review.

The order eliminates some of the most contentious aspects in an effort to surmount the court challenges that are sure to come. Trump's first order, issued just a week after his inauguration, was halted by federal courts.

The new one leaves Iraq off the list of banned countries — at the urging of U.S. military and diplomatic leaders — but still affects would-be visitors and immigrants from Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Libya. It also makes clear that current visa holders will not be impacted, and it removes language that would give priority to religious minorities — a provision some interpreted as a way to help Christians get into the U.S. while excluding Muslims.

The changes underscore the very different position the president finds himself in.

Five weeks ago, Trump



Syrian refugee Mahmoud Mansour, 43, is shown in this photo, taken Monday in Amman, with his daughters Ruba and Sahar. Mansour, who has been undergoing vetting for resettlement to the U.S. for the past year, says he was devastated by Trump's ban. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

dropped the first order with a bang, catching lawmakers and members of his administration by surprise. He signed the order in a high-profile ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes as Secretary of Defence James Mattis stood by.

This time around, the president skipped the usual public ceremony altogether. Instead, the administration chose to have Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Attorney General Jeff Sessions serve as the public faces of the rollout at a brief press announcement.

"I think today was about the implementation of it," said Press Secretary Sean Spicer — at a briefing off camera.

Legal experts say the new order addresses some of the constitutional concerns raised by a federal appeals court about the initial ban but leaves room for more legal challenges.

"It's much clearer about how it doesn't apply to groups of immigrants with more clearly established constitutional rights," said University of Texas law professor Stephen Vladeck. "That's a really important step."

Mansour, an artisan who embroiders traditional dresses, said he is confused about what Trump's revised executive order means for his family's prospects in the U.S. "We hope that this new order will carry a glimmer of hope," he said in his small apartment in Jordan's capital,

Amman, which also doubles as his workshop.

Others in the family have been luckier.

Two older brothers, Ahmed and Suleiman, managed to reach the U.S. as part of the resettlement program. Ahmed travelled last year from Egypt, while Suleiman and his family reached the U.S. from Amman a day before Trump's inauguration.

"I am not lucky," said Mansour, adding that he and Suleiman had started the vetting procedures in Jordan roughly at the same time. The revised travel ban means prolonged uncertainty for Mansour, his wife and four daughters, ranging in age from three to 13. "I am powerless," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REACTION

New move not a big change, experts say



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Immigration experts and advocates are concerned the new Muslim ban signed on Monday will make life even harder for would-be refugees.

Donald Trump's Muslim Ban 2.0 halts refugee intake for 120 days and bans any U.S. visits from citizens of Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Libya and Yemen. It now exempts people from Iraq, as well as green-card holders and those who have permanent resident status.

"There is no moral way we can say that the U.S. is a safe country for refugees anymore," said Emily Gilbert, director of the Canadian Studies program at the University of Toronto.

"This executive order only reinforces the anti-Muslim

sentiment that we know exists in the U.S. and in Canada."

Canada should be concerned about a potential echo of that discourse, she warned. Some of the candidates in the Conservative party have expressed similar beliefs, and aggressive acts against religious minorities have taken place.

Trump's first Muslim ban prompted legal challenges and demonstrations across the globe, with many Canadian advocacy groups urging the federal government to repeal the Safe Third Country Agreement, which prevents people in the United States from claiming refugee status in Canada.

"We need the border open, because there's clearly no fair refugee system in the United States again," said Syed Hussan, a Toronto refugee advocate.

Aides defend Trump's wiretapping claims

White House officials on Monday defended President Donald Trump's explosive claim that Barack Obama tapped Trump's telephones during last year's election, although they won't say exactly where that information came from and left open the possibility that it isn't true.

The comments came even as FBI Director James Comey privately asked the Justice Department to dispute the claim because he believed the allegations were false. When asked whether Trump accepted Comey's view, White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told ABC's Good Morning America: "I don't think he does."

Sanders and Kellyanne Conway, another top adviser,

said the president still firmly believes the allegations he made on Twitter over the weekend. The aides said any ambiguity surrounding the issue is all the more reason for Congress to investigate the matter.

"We'd like to know for sure," Sanders said.

The House and Senate intelligence committees, and the FBI, are investigating contacts between Trump's campaign and Russian officials, as well as whether Moscow tried to influence the 2016 election.

On Sunday, Trump demanded that they broaden the scope of their inquiries to include Obama's potential abuse of executive powers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANCE

Conservatives in crisis as candidate flounders

For France's conservatives, this year's presidential election should have been effortless.

Instead, the Republicans party — once all but certain to take back the Elysee Palace in 2017 — is in disarray over the corruption-tainted campaign of its candidate François Fillon. Riven by dissent as Fillon tenaciously clings to his bid, the conservatives are watching their presidential hopes sink by the day.

Far-right nationalists, meanwhile, are gearing up for what they hope is their Donald Trump

moment, in which National Front leader Marine Le Pen proves the pollsters wrong and harnesses the anti-immigration, anti-establishment sentiment percolating around Europe to capture a presidential victory.

In this prediction-defying French presidential campaign, anything could still happen between now and April 23, when the voting begins.

One thing is clear: The conservatives are in trouble. And no one is eager to take Fillon's place with less than seven weeks

left to campaign.

Many conservatives had pinned their hopes on former Prime Minister Alain Juppé to step in and save their party's chances — but on Monday he definitively rejected that poisoned chalice.

"It's too late," he told reporters, accusing Fillon, who beat him in the conservative primary, of leading the French right into a political "dead end."

"What a waste," Juppé said. "Last week I received many calls asking me to take over. They

made me hesitate, I thought about it. Today, uniting everyone has become even more difficult ... I confirm, once and for all, that I will not bid to be the French president."

It's a remarkable about-face.

A year ago, Juppé was considered a shoo-in for the 2017 race. Socialist President François Hollande's record-setting unpopularity all but guaranteed that France's other main political force, the conservative Republicans, would take back power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Thai doctors fix turtle who pigged out on bank

Tossing coins in a fountain for luck is a popular superstition, but a similar belief brought misery to a sea turtle in Thailand from whom doctors have removed 915 coins.

Veterinarians in Bangkok operated Monday on the turtle nicknamed "Bank," whose indigestible diet was a result of many tourists seeking good fortune tossing coins into her pool over many years in the eastern town of Sri Racha. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Planned Parenthood offered money to stop abortions

President Donald Trump has offered to maintain federal funding for Planned Parenthood if the group stops providing abortions. Its president spurned the proposal and noted that federal money already is not allowed to be used for abortion. Trump confirmed Monday there had been discussions, adding polling shows most Americans oppose public funding for abortion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fitbit expands sleep tracking

FITNESS

People not sleeping enough, company says

Fitbit, whose devices encourage people to walk 10,000 steps each day, now wants to put them to sleep as well.

The company said data collected by the millions of Fitbit trackers in use show that people are averaging less than seven hours of sleep a night, the amount recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the 2s people do get aren't necessarily the right



Fitbit is pushing its capabilities beyond exercise to appeal to those who already have a fitness tracker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

kind of sleep.

So Fitbit will offer deeper sleep tracking on some of its devices. Fitbits already track how

much sleep people get and use sensors to measure periods of being awake or restless while in bed. Now, using a built-in

heart-rate monitor, the devices will break sleep into clinically defined stages.

For example, about a quarter of sleep is supposed to consist of the rapid-eye movement, or REM, phase. This is when dreams occur, and scientists believe it's important for improving memory. Fitbit says devices with this new Sleep Stages feature will be able to measure whether you get enough REM sleep.

Fitbit also announced an updated version of its Alta tracker. The new version has heart rate monitoring and seven days of battery life. The Alta HR goes on sale in a few weeks for about \$150 US. Existing Charge 2 and Blaze devices will get the sleep feature through free software

updates.

One of Fitbit's chief competitors, the Apple Watch, doesn't come with sleep tracking, as it needs a nightly recharge. Other fitness trackers and smartwatches do offer sleep tracking but the sleep capabilities often take a backseat to features for running, cycling and other exercise.

According to research firm IDC, Fitbit is the leading seller of wearable devices, but it's facing a steep decline because most of its sales are in the U.S., where many people who want a fitness tracker already have one. Pushing capabilities beyond exercise could help Fitbit appeal to people whose fitness routines are already stable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH

Cannabis producer sued

A class action lawsuit has been filed against a New Brunswick medical marijuana producer after unapproved pesticides were found in its products.

Wagners Law Firm alleges roughly 2,000 people purchased cannabis products containing myclobutanil and bifentazate from Moncton's Organigram Inc. last year.

The law firm says both chemicals are considered toxic and are not authorized for use on medical cannabis.

It says Organigram recalled five lots of product in December and 69 lots in January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LAWSUIT

Greenpeace filing admission of 'lying,' forest firm charges

A forestry multinational that is suing Greenpeace under American racketeering laws alleges that the activist organization's recent court filings are essentially an admission that it lies, a claim the group forcefully denies.

The new public relations offensive by Montreal-based Resolute Forest Products focuses on free-speech arguments Greenpeace has advanced as it seeks to have a \$300-million lawsuit tossed without a hearing on its merits.

In its fight to stop the company's lawsuit in Georgia,

Greenpeace argues in a recent court filing that its criticism of Resolute's logging practices in Canada's boreal forests should be viewed through the prism of free speech rather than taken literally.

In a years-long campaign, Greenpeace publicly accused Resolute of unsustainable logging in northern Ontario and Quebec that threatens endangered and other wildlife, contributes to climate change, and ignores indigenous peoples.

The company, which is also suing Greenpeace for \$7 million for defamation in Ontario, filed

its Georgia lawsuit under racketeering laws enacted to deal with organized crime that allow for triple damages. Among other things, Resolute alleges Greenpeace is a "global fraud" whose campaigns are based on "sensational misinformation" aimed at getting people to donate money for its own benefit.

Greenpeace, which has denounced the lawsuit as an intimidation tactic, wants the claim struck as an attempt to stifle its free-speech rights and silence critics of Resolute's logging practices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DAILY TREAT



Winnipeg
metr

BLUEPRINT by Sarah-Joyce Battersby and Andrés Plana

Designing for women

As long as there have been cities, there have been women. But that's not always obvious when looking at the pieces that make up urban life. From street names to transit transfer policies, the lives and needs of women are often overlooked. **On the eve of International Women's Day, six ways to make cities for all.**



1 Wider sidewalks
It must be said that many initiatives billed as making cities better for women are rooted in gender stereotypes, such as women pushing baby strollers. But, still, wider sidewalks help anyone with a stroller, wheelchair or walker move about more easily.

2 Brighter streets
The evidence isn't clear cut on whether brighter streets are safer, with some saying it enables criminals. But when it comes to preventing crime that disproportionately affects women, organizations including the UN have pushed for more light.

3 More washrooms
Equal, easy access to clean, well-equipped toilets (i.e. with garbage bins, and, hey, free tampons if you're feeling generous) is still out of reach in many cities, in both public and private buildings. Not to mention the scarcity of stalls at sports stadiums.

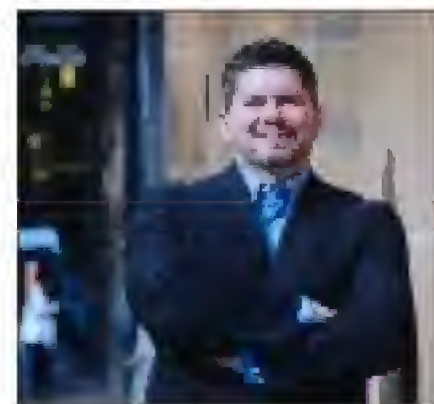
4 Flexible fares
Studies show men and women use transit differently, as women still take on most household chores, like school runs and groceries. This often means less straight-forward trips. Time-based fares could lower the costs for those zig-zag trips.

5 Fair playgrounds
A study found that after age nine, little girls were crowded out of parks by boys, who more boldly claimed space. To address in a small way the systemic issue of men being socialized to be more assertive, planners made parks with more and varied play areas.

6 Stature on statues
With only one in five city statues in Toronto depicting women and similarly dismal numbers when it comes to park and street names across other Canadian cities, advocates have pushed in recent years to have equal representation.

WORD ON THE STREET by Brent Toderian

Semis, rowhouses the 'gentle' way to strengthen our cities



If you could be a fly on the wall in city planning departments lately, chances are you'd overhear a conversation about "gentle density." And the planners would look pretty stressed.

That's because most cities are struggling with significant housing challenges, and recognize their existing planning rules and approaches aren't going to solve them.

These difficult and complicated challenges include building more complete and resilient communities, addressing politically explosive debates about neighbourhood change, and improving affordability. There's also the challenge of preserving community "building blocks" like local schools and shopping as some neighbourhoods lose population, the debilitating cost of sprawl, and the clear connections between public health and building communities.

So what is gentle density, and what does it have to do with all that?

As I defined it back in 2007, gentle density is attached, ground-oriented housing that's more dense than a detached house, but with a similar scale and

character. Think duplexes, semi-detached homes, rowhouses, or even stacked townhouses.

In short, it's "gentle" because the actual impacts of adding such housing choices, if designed well, are minimal – although you wouldn't know that by the controversy that can be raised in some communities.

Many people don't mind sharing a common wall and are eager to cut their costs and carbon footprint, but still appreciate a direct relationship with the ground. That's why fellow urbanist Daniel Parolek in San Francisco calls this kind of density the "missing middle." In most cities this middle is under-represented, if it's there at all.

In some cases, this is

because builders need to learn (or re-learn) this kind of building. In others, land economics and land assembly make it tough sledding.

In most cities, though, deliberate zoning decisions have made this kind of housing illegal.

That's a problem, because from a planning perspective, there's nothing fundamentally incompatible about all sorts of gentle density co-habiting in a well-designed neighbourhood.

When we listen carefully, the opposition to such a mix usually isn't about planning principles – it's more often about politics fuelled by financial self-interest (the perceived impact on property values) and "not in my backyard" sentiments.

If we want to get serious

about addressing our big challenges, we need to seriously rethink how we discuss and address change in our communities. Ironically, gentle density could help strengthen and stabilize our neighbourhoods far better than trying to cast them in amber would.

Our cities and suburbs need more gentle density. Our stressed-out planning departments are struggling with how to do it well. Let's give them our encouragement and ideas.

Brent Toderian is an international city planner and urbanist with Toderian UrbanWORKS. He is also Vancouver's former chief planner and the president of the Council for Canadian Urbanism.

PUBLIC WORKS The week in urbanism



Small-town high line
St. Thomas, Ont., isn't known for its urbanist ways. But in August the town of 38,000 is poised to unveil Canada's first elevated park. The park, 25 metres above ground, replaces an old rail bridge that was going to be taken apart. New uses could include yoga classes, gardens and benches with nice views.

Cyclists gain suction
Cyclists, or possibly a lone cyclist, wanting better protected bike lanes in Wichita, Kansas, took matters into their own hands. Plungers with spray-painted handles and reflective tape appeared alongside the road, delighting the city's growing cycling community.

URBAN DICTIONARY Desire paths



DEFINITION The paths carved out with footprints when multiple people take a more convenient route through fields or other open spaces.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
After a fresh snowfall Luke followed the **desire paths** on campus created by previous students rushing to class.

CITY CHAMP

Toronto-based architect

A principal with ERA architects, Graeme Stewart's research on retrofitting Toronto's suburban high-rises has shaped the city's housing policies over the past decade.

@GraemeJStewart



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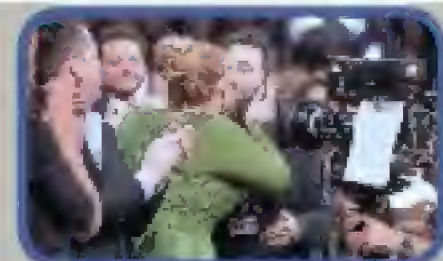
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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Adele officially announces that she and longtime partner Simon Konecki are married



Farrah Khan

Sexual violence support worker, educator, queer Muslim artist

How can feminism get people of different races and genders into the fold?

This march is not the beginning. Many people, including our elders and godmothers of the movement, have been fighting for a long time. It's not about getting people from marginalized communities into the fold but expanding what the fold is. It's creating space for different visions of what equity looks like. We need to be continually thinking about who is left out and who needs to be included. The movement needs intergenerational conversations, feminist godmothers, FEMtors that have institutional and movement memory so we're not reinventing the wheel but building.

Kate Chung

Toronto Raging Grannies
What did you make of the march?

Marches like this help build solidarity but I hope it's not all focused on the U.S. We're brainwashed here to think that Canada is so wonderful and we live in the best country in the world but, I'm sorry, there are still things to fix. This is not a perfect place and I see things sliding backwards. I'm old enough to remember the 1970s when we had hope that change was coming. Also, there's no such thing as just a women's issue. Climate, the future of this planet, justice, refugees, war and peace, homelessness — we're not just fighting for our own grandchildren but all grandchildren.

What does a feminist future look like?

After The Women's March on Washington in January, it seems we're riding another wave of the women's movement. But it is not without its issues. For International Women's Day, we looked to Canadian women for insight on the future of feminism, inclusivity and smashing patriarchy. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Clockwise from top left: Farrah Khan, Ing Wong Ward, Gwen Benaway, Septembre Anderson, Uzma Jalaluddin, Kate Chung.

Uzma Jalaluddin

Writer, teacher, Toronto Star columnist

Did you march? What should happen now?

I didn't march but fully support the women who did. I think there's a sense that something very fundamental about American society is under attack right now and people feel it on a visceral, personal level. For me, as someone who is very visible, I understand so many people who are being placed, viewed and treated as outsiders. All the social justice movements, especially feminism, need compassion, empathy, understanding and tolerance. It would also be nice to see a wider variety of stories out there. I think that feminists need to read each other's stories.

Septembre Anderson

Reluctant feminist and activist, journalist

How should feminism work to get folks of different races and genders on board?

It's important to understand and accept that we're working on the same issues but not together, that we're working as teammates but not necessarily on the same team. Our diversity is our strength. Men are a whole other thing and it's valuable for men to do their work where they are. They don't need to come into our group, they need to speak to other men. In the locker rooms where they're talking about grabbing women by the p--- — that's where their work is. To the men: Your work is with other men.

Ing Wong Ward

Associate Director for the Centre for Independent Living

What else does the movement need?

I do hope that the women who marched can take the power and goodwill they felt during that day and find ways to turn this into everyday resistance. Social movements aren't solely built on large, visible demonstrations. They're also built on the decisions individuals make to say they refuse to believe the status quo cannot change. The movement needs to be far more open to diversity and to find ways to share power with under-represented groups, including women with disabilities, who are too often rendered invisible. Part of this involves white, CIS, straight, nondisabled women listening to women whose lives do not mirror their own, to hear what the feminist movement can do to be more inclusive.

Gwen Benaway

Anishinabe/Métis trans poet
What does the movement need right now?

To really focus on intersectional feminism. It's time for us to move past divisiveness and embrace the strength, mission and perspectives of all women who are experiencing misogyny if we are going to really challenge and change things. There has been a fundamental rollback of our rights and equal access so we need to come together as diverse women and stand unified. (We have a) moment to leverage the unity of the moment and the strength of our unity. The way to do that is to call out men collectively, to call out misogyny.

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Culture **metro**LIFE

Why strong is the new pretty

TEIGEN OPENS UP

Model's depression fight

Chrissy Teigen has revealed that she has battled postpartum depression since the birth of her daughter last year.

The former Sports Illustrated swimsuit model and singer John Legend welcomed a baby girl, Luna, in April. She writes in an essay for *Glamour* that she has been "unhappy" for much of the last year and discovered she was suffering from postpartum depression in December.

Teigen writes that she had difficulty after returning to work as a co-host of *Lip Sync Battle*. She says she is now taking an antidepressant for the depression and anxiety and is also in therapy.

Teigen says she's opening up now because she wants people to know postpartum depression "can happen to anybody."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTRAIT PROJECT

Book fights a message, toasts girls' strength in all its forms

Strong is the New Pretty: A Celebration of Girls Being Themselves is a new book by photographer Kate T. Parker featuring portraits of almost 200 girls from across North America.

Broken down into nine sections celebrating different forms of strength — confidence, resilience, creativity and fearlessness among them — Parker writes in the introduction that the seed for the book was planted while shooting everyday photos of her two daughters and their friends.

"The more I shot, the more I began to notice that the strongest images, the ones that resonated most with me, were the ones in which girls were being 100-per-cent themselves," Parker writes.

"I wanted to show my girls that beauty isn't about being a certain size, or having your hair done... or wearing a fancy out-

fit. I wanted to combat the messages media sends to women every day. I wanted my girls to know that being themselves is beautiful and that being beautiful is about being strong."

As her project gained mo-

“

I wanted my girls to know that being themselves is beautiful.

Kate T. Parker

mentum online, Parker began travelling across the U.S. to photograph more and more girls, culminating in a collection of diverse portraits of young women with different dreams, passions and stories, but all united by a common theme — they are all, in their own ways, strong.

Strong is the New Pretty: A Celebration of Girls Being Themselves is available in Canada from Thomas Allen & Son starting March 7.

"I love the speed when I skate. I feel very alive and present—feeling fluid and going fast is fun."
Kekai, age 12



"I'm small, but I have a big voice and I know how to use it."
Ivy, age 9



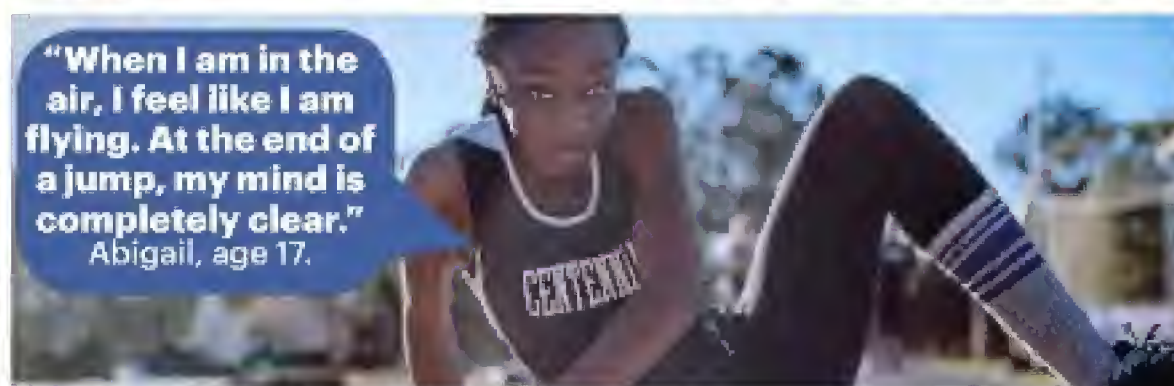
"Strong is putting all your heart, mind, and effort into what you believe in. Your beauty will shine from this."
Jordan, age 15.



"If you're strong on the inside, it means nobody can break you down."
Carlie, age 12.



"When I am in the air, I feel like I am flying. At the end of a jump, my mind is completely clear."
Abigail, age 17.



"I never met a female firefighter before. Now, I know it's possible to be one."
Maddie, age 7.



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The gender-affirming outlet

IDENTITY

Co-operative's online store offers advice and essentials



Ali Vanderkruyk
Metro | Toronto

For young trans and non-binary individuals seeking gender-affirming products, high price and lack of accessibility are a problem.

"Some of the most marginalized people in society also have the most expensive underwear," says Jack Lamon of the prosthetics, tools, and clothing that play a vital part in gender actualization.

Lamon is a worker-member of Come As You Are, a co-operatively owned sex shop, and GenderGear.ca, a separate online shop providing gender gear for trans folk.

Their anti-capitalist and feminist collective mission is to offer products and services that help people express and experi-

ence their sexuality, gender and orientation.

Lamon explains that the majority of the worker-owners at the CAYA sex shop are trans or gender queer: "We have always had a personal and professional interest in gender. But, because kids are coming out as trans at younger and younger ages, it was awkward to provide customer service to parents and service providers."

The sexualized environment of the brick and mortar store (which closed its doors in 2016), did not specifically tend to the needs of people that were interested in confronting their gender dysphoria. The nature of the sex storefront had the potential to bar parents of trans youth and the website, which is an adult website, was firewalled to service providers like Children's Aid and the Toronto Board of Education.

"Sex and gender have nothing to do with each other: your gender does not determine your orientation, or what you may or may not like sexually," Lamon explains.

"People carry the perception that being trans is a sexual



Staff and members of Come As You Are and GenderGear.ca (from left) Noah Kloeze, Meg Saxby, and Jack Lamon. COURTESY COME AS YOU ARE

thing, but as much as reducing gender dysphoria may help you enjoy your sexuality more, being trans is not sexual identity, it is gender identity."

The CAYA co-op storefront in Toronto closed in 2016, and now runs as a website linked to GenderGear.ca while the collective figures out their next steps.

But the reality is, the website is what kept them alive. More people tend to be comfortable buying gender and sex products online because there is still a lot of apprehension in discussing private needs publicly.

GenderGear does not feel the need to market or promote their products. The gear is already expensive and they do

not want to be prescriptive or suggest that people "ought" to do things their way.

"The point was never really to sell products, it was to make sure products were available for people who needed them," says Lamon.

Ella Webber, a customer at CAYA, explains that because of the generous sharing of infor-

mation within the LGBTQ2S community, many older trans individuals are actually learning from younger people about the range and accessibility of products.

Before Webber's top surgery, they explained how they had "needed multiple binders: tight ones for when you want to look extra flat, and casual wear. Without (access to) them, there are moments that can be so hard when you need something and can't have it."

Asher Faerstein, who has bought six binders to date, confirms that, "for a lot of young trans people who are in precarious financial situations, [the expense] is really inconvenient."

GenderGear provides a binder recycling program that makes used binders available for \$5. The website accommodates the necessary service of selling clothing that does not permanently change your body, but enables one to feel slightly more comfortable in their skin.

There is, however, a lot more work to be done in the fight for financially accessible gender-affirming products.

4,000 of Canada's best young athletes will compete in Winnipeg this summer. Celebrate 50 years of the Canada Games with tickets to this once-in-a-lifetime event. All individual tickets and ticket packages are on sale now at canadagames.ca/2017

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Reach out and help a fellow student struggling

March in Canada can bring with it both unpredictable weather and a fluctuation of unfavourable feelings. For post-secondary students dealing with stressful deadlines, confusing coursework and petrifying presentations, these last weeks before the brighter days of spring can trigger stress, anxiety and depression.

So if it's come to your attention that a friend on campus has been struggling with an upswing of negative emotions, is there anything you can do to reach out and help?

"Unfortunately it is very common for students to feel down, sad, agitated or overwhelmed; they are dealing with a lot," says Tenniel Rock, manager of counseling and

student well-being at George Brown College. "And often friends notice things about us that we aren't aware of."

Rock says that if a student chooses to approach someone they think is in need, it's important to begin the conversation honestly, stating what they have noticed with specific examples.

"Mention that you care, so that is why you are saying something," she says.

"If they need more help offer to go with them to see a counsellor or recommend a telephone counselling service."

"It is important to respect another person's privacy if they do not wish to speak further, adds Sarah Thompson,

psychologist in the Ryerson Centre for Student Development & Counselling. "And you can let the person know that you are available if they want to speak."

Thompson says it's equally important for students to work hard to check their own biases when seeking to offer support to others.

"Refrain from judgment and refrain from making assumptions about what the other person may be experiencing."

"All campuses are seeing significant increases in mental health issues," says Suzanne Book, senior manager of counselling and accessibility services at Fanshawe College, emphasizing that the struggling student is not alone.

Book mentions that the student well-being team at Fanshawe, as with many campuses across Canada, offers not only counseling, but workshops, peer support, training, events and activities to help grow students' understanding of mental health and well-being.

"We are continuing to balance both



ISTOCK

responsive service to support students experiencing anxiety, depression, stress and other more severe issues."

"There are so many people that want to help, have experiences to share and really want to listen," Book adds. "Encourage your friend to give it a try. You never know what you can learn when you are open to hearing a new perspective around problems you are facing. People really do care."

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PATAL CHEFS STIR THEIR WAY BACK TO PRE-COLONIAL TIMES

Chef Steven Watson of Patal College is journeying back through the history books to create his "cookbook" for the brand new food kiosk — Oyate at The Forks.

The menu for Oyate will be based on pre-colonial foods — meaning nothing that would have been brought over by the Europeans.

This includes no salt, sugar, flour, baking powder or lard.

"We are doing stuff that no one else is really doing right now," says Watson, culinary arts instructor at Patal, and one of the masterminds behind Oyate.

"All of the food will be based on whole grains, meats and things from the land, such as nuts and berries."

The premise behind this new food experience is to educate people on the affects of processed foods in their diets and how these ancient foods can be created in a healthy and delicious way.

"Processed food has been a major detriment to the Indigenous people in Manitoba," says Watson.

"Diabetes and heart disease in Indigenous communities is a very serious issue, one that is lacking in resources, education and funding."

This new exciting venture at The Forks is an offshoot of the training that Watson



CONTRIBUTED

provides in the culinary arts program at Patal International College.

Having resources like Oyate run by Patal faculties members opens the doors for students to assist in projects like this one.

Oyate is set to open late spring to early summer.

For more information about the culinary arts program at Patal International College, visit patalvocational.com.

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When it comes to online learning, more and more options for prospective students pop up each day.

For those individuals trying to sort through the many different programs and courses available online, Robertson Online offers a great selection of programs — making them a great option that's too good to pass up.

"Robertson Online offers flexible, unique and enhanced online learning, structured in such a way as to provide individuals the opportunity to gain the knowledge and employability skills they require," says Keith McConnell, BA, MBA, director, Online Campus, Robertson College.

"Through a supportive distance learning environment, we prepare them for success within the career path they have chosen."

Robertson College offers a number of programs in a variety of fields designed to help students secure jobs.

In under a year, students can be trained to become administrative professionals and office assistants in the fields of business, law, medicine, IT, supply chain, community support worker and veterinary medicine.

Robertson programs continue to be reviewed and updated with both the respective industry needs and the student's needs in mind.

"It's a priority of Robertson College Online to ensure that the proper balance of both the educational requirements and the student's expectations are met through the learning outcomes of our diploma and certificate programs," says McConnell.

"The success of our students is important to each member of our team, thus we strive to ensure changes made reflect the feedback received in our research."

Robertson also continues to enhance the student experience in their learning management system with new video, virtual classroom and electronic textbook tools.

"Our goal is to support your learning at any time from any location," says McConnell.

The learning materials used and the diplomas received from these online programs are the same as if you were to take the program in class.

The only difference is the method of learning, and some students need the flexibility to study early in the day or later in the evening, and online allows for this.

Midway through your program, the Robertson College career services team will reach out to you and help set you up for your work co-op/practicum.

They help you with every detail of your practicum preparation.

"The career service team will help them with their resume, interview process and cover letter and then we access our employer network and if a job comes up in their field, in their area, we will alert them of the job and we will help them as long as they need it even after graduation," says McConnell.

For more information, visit robertsoncollege.com/online-studies/.



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Gain experience in the leading edge HR industry

Students of the Red River College human resource management program are now one step closer to receiving their designation through the recent Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) accreditation.

Graduates of this program will be able to waive writing the National Knowledge Exam (NKE) — a required step for those looking to pursue this designation.

"Accrediting our HR management program opens doors to many career opportunities for our students, and provides the industry with the necessary talent to make a real impact in their organizations," says Jo-Anne Shay, dean, School of Continuing Education, Red River College.

The CPHR designation requires an individual to achieve and maintain demonstrated competency and experience relevant to the HR profession.

CPHR Manitoba is the exclusive certifying body in Manitoba for the nationally recognized CPHR designation — the leading standard for HR professionals in Canada.

At RRC, this means students and currently

ACCREDITING OUR HR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OPENS DOORS TO MANY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS

— Jo-Anne Shay

employed HR people can earn their professional designation even if they don't have a degree.

"We want to continue to be on the leading edge of meeting the needs of industry," says Vera Godavari, project and communication officer, RRC.

"Today's accreditation with CPHR Manitoba demonstrates our close connections to industry and our ongoing efforts to ensure that our programming is relevant, timely and accessible. The end result will benefit the profession and provide more rewarding careers for our students."

The Post-Secondary Institute Accreditation Program is a significant step forward



STOCK

for the human resources profession.

The program will recognize the knowledge gained throughout the duration of the post-secondary education program and provide a significant advantage to graduates looking to pursue the CPHR designation.

This new accreditation will also benefit former graduates of this program.

Graduates from the HR management

program from 2012-2016 are eligible to apply for the waiver for the NKE and to apply for the CPHR designation.

Classes for this part-time program begin throughout the spring with the strategic HR planning course beginning March 11.

For more information about the HR management program at Red River College, visit rrc.ca.




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Human Resource Management Certificate

Gain theoretical and practical insights into the field of human resources. You'll develop the essential skills for business management and apply the core competencies of organizational effectiveness: staffing, employee and labour relations, compensation, development and training, and HR systems management.

This certificate is valuable to:

- Those contemplating a career change or new to the HR field
- HR professionals who want to expand their knowledge and skills
- Frontline managers, supervisors and administrators who implement HR policies and programs
- Anyone preparing for their Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) designation

This program is now accredited by CPHR Manitoba.

204.694.1789 | cde@rrc.ca | rrc.ca/hrm



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Future human resource leaders keep up the PACE

Annual leadership event recognizes University of Winnipeg HR program for role in educational leadership

It has been a great start to 2017 for The University of Winnipeg Professional, Applied and Continuing Education (PACE) human resource management diploma program.

First, the program was internationally recognized for its excellence in human resource education earlier this month at the 2017 Leadership Excellence and Development (LEAD) conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

LEAD is an annual two-day leadership event that brings together human resource (HR) professionals and organizations from around the world.

The goal of the conference — which took place February 6-7 this year — is to equip individuals in HR with the insights and tools required to become better leaders in their industry.

PACE received two awards of distinction in the LEAD education leadership categories: second place in the Top-10 category of Diploma Programs with an Emphasis on HR, and third place in the Top-10 category of Custom Content Programming with an Emphasis on HR.

"It really spotlights on our program, it shows what we are doing is continually improving our program," says Ashlie Wilson, program manager, HR management diploma, PACE.

Other winning institutions joining PACE include the University of California Berkley, the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program,

the British Columbia Institute of Technology and Eastern Michigan University.

With the addition of these two LEAD awards, PACE's HR management diploma program has won four national and international awards in the last two years.

Secondly, the HR management diploma program has also been recently accredited to the Chartered Professional Human Resource (CPHR) Manitoba.

"It is very exciting for our program to receive this recognition, especially for the students that are in pursuit of the CPHR designation," says Wilson.

Wilson says this really gives students of the PACE program a leg up when comes to seeking out this designation — which she notes that more and more HR job postings list as a requirement.

This accreditation means students of the PACE program get a waiver to the exam portion of the designation (conditions apply) — and therefore save themselves time and money.

The PACE HR management diploma program is offered in a part-time or full-time format.

The full-time program offers two intakes per year, with the next being May 2017 and September 2017.

Individuals looking to get started in the part-time program can begin as early as April.

To learn more, visit pace.uwinnipeg.ca.

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PDR Communication Lead, Manitoba Public Insurance
Human Resource Diploma, Class of 2015

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metr SPORTS

The Iditarod started a day late Monday to give mushers time to drive their dogs 360 miles north to the colder, snowier climes of Fairbanks, Alaska

Legend back as a coach

CURLING

Kevin Martin has helped guide son's team to Brier

You can excuse curling fans for doing a double-take at the Tim Hortons Brier.

Legendary skip Kevin Martin is sporting familiar Alberta colours at the national men's curling championship this week in St. John's, N.L. The 2010 Olympic champion is back at the Brier to coach his son Karrick and the provincial team skipped by Brendan Bottcher.

Instead of standing at the end of the sheet and throwing last stones, the former skip — who retired in 2014 — watches the action from his seat on the back bench.

"I hadn't been back to a Brier in any way since I retired," Martin said Monday. "To have the opportunity, you know coaching my son is a big deal ... it's neat. It's good to get back into it."

The event is a reunion of sorts for Martin, who has played with and against many of the curlers in the field. The four-time Brier champion won gold at the Vancouver Games with John Morris (now with B.C.), Ben Hebert and Marc Kennedy (now with Canada skip Kevin Koe).

Longtime opponents like Richard Hart and Glenn Howard of Ontario are also on hand along with veteran skip Brad



Canadian curling great Kevin Martin, centre, talks to his son Karrick Martin, right, and Darren Moulding of Team Alberta in St. John's, N.L., on Monday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gushue of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Martin, who has stayed involved in the game with his curling broadcasting work, started coaching Bottcher's rink before the provincial play-downs and helped them earn their first Brier berth.

"He's been working with us quite a bit technically and tactically trying to get a few small tweaks here and there," Bottcher said. "I think the big-

4
The number of times Kevin Martin has won the Brier.

gest thing he brings though is just the experience factor.

"He's the solid ground to come back to."

Bottcher's team of Karrick

at lead, third Darren Moulding and second Brad Thiessen had the unenviable task of playing local favourite Gushue in the round-robin opener Saturday before a rabid capacity crowd.

The Alberta rink played well in a losing effort before dropping two more games Sunday. Bottcher finally got into the win column Monday afternoon with a 7-2 victory over New Brunswick's Mike Kennedy.

In other early games, North-

ern Ontario's Brad Jacobs defeated Jamie Koe of the Northwest Territories 9-5. Quebec's Jean-Michel Menard beat Saskatchewan's Adam Casey 8-3 and Morris edged Nova Scotia's Jamie Murphy 4-3.

Manitoba's Mike McEwen remained unbeaten at 4-0 after a 10-6 victory over Bottcher in the evening draw. Jacobs (4-1) moved into second place with a 7-2 win over Howard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Pavelski leads Sharks past Jets

Joe Pavelski scored his team's first and last goals as the San Jose Sharks defeated the Winnipeg Jets 3-2 on Monday.

Joe Thornton assisted on Pavelski's empty-net goal to give him 1,000 NHL career assists.

Aaron Dell stopped 31 shots in his 14th game for the Sharks (39-19-7).

Pavelski opened the game's scoring with his 22nd goal and Mikkael Boedker also had a goal for San Jose, which was coming off a 3-1 loss Sunday in Minnesota.

Josh Morrissey scored for the Jets in the first period and Mark Scheifele netted his 28th of the season with seven seconds left in the game.

MONDAY At MTS Centre

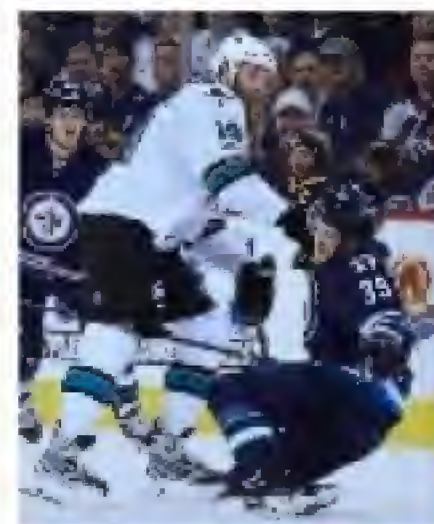
3 SHARKS	2 JETS
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Connor Hellebuyck made 27 saves in his 11th straight start for Winnipeg (30-31-6).

Winnipeg remains tied with idle Los Angeles (66 points) and one point behind St. Louis, which holds the second wild-card berth.

Also Monday, the Jets announced goaltender Ondrej Pavelec underwent knee surgery and is likely out for the remainder of the season.

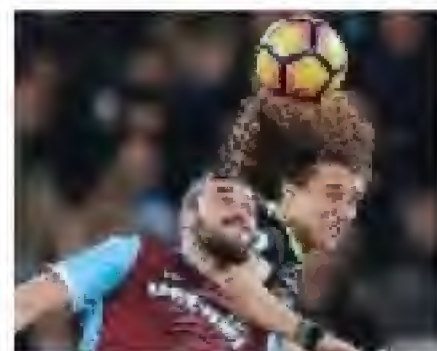
Pavelec posted a 4-4 record this season with a 3.55 goals-against average. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sharks centre Joe Thornton shoves the Jets' Toby Enstrom to the ice on Monday. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea extends its lead to 10 points



West Ham United's Andy Carroll, left, and Chelsea's David Luiz vie for the ball on Monday in London. ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Chelsea took a confident step closer to the Premier League title with goals from Eden Hazard and Diego Costa, enough to sweep aside London rivals West Ham 2-1 Monday.

The result lifts Chelsea 10 points clear of second-placed Tottenham, with 11 games left.

Manuel Lanzini notched West Ham's consolation goal in second-half injury time.

Manchester City is third, a point behind Spurs, but with a game in hand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Sandusky transferred to a medium-security prison

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky has been moved from a maximum-security prison to a medium-security facility in western Pennsylvania.

State prison officials say the 73-year-old was initially transferred because he was considered to be vulnerable given the nature of his child-sex abuse conviction, and his high profile.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Roughriders wait on Young's decision

The Saskatchewan Roughriders will learn sooner than later if former Texas quarterback Vince Young will make his football comeback in Canada.

Leigh Steinberg, Young's agent, told The Canadian Press on Monday he expects his client to decide his football future either later this week or early next. Last month, Steinberg created a stir on Twitter by saying he was talking to the Riders about the two-time Pro Bowl quarterback playing in Canada

34
Young turns 34 in May and hasn't been on an NFL roster since the 2014 off-season.

this season.

Young is on Saskatchewan's negotiation list, giving it CFL exclusivity to the former University of Texas star. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Cheesy Pesto Pizza with Ricotta and Sundried Tomatoes

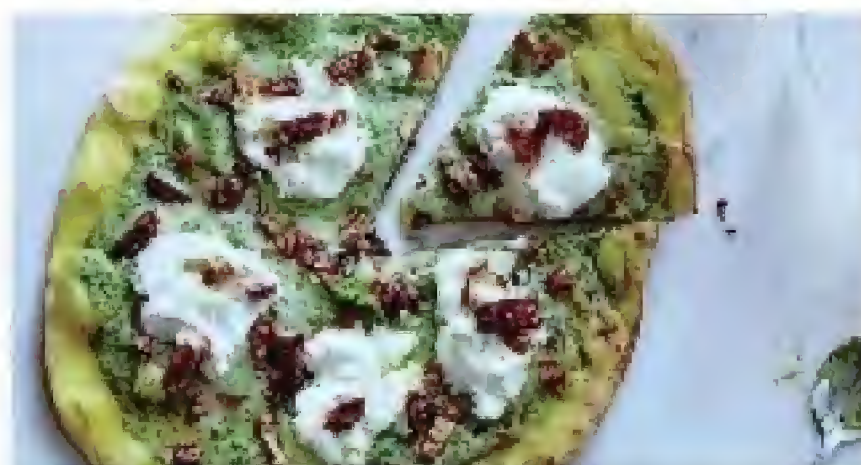
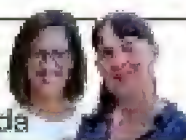


PHOTO: MAYA VISINCEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



Your craving for cheesy pizza and getting your greens can live happily together.

Ready in

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 cloves garlic, quartered
- 2 cups baby spinach
- 1 cup basil leaves
- 1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 large store bought flatbread
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup shaved Asiago cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped sundried tomatoes
- Chopped basil for garnish

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 C. Prepare a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. In a food processor, mince garlic, then add the spinach, basil, Parmesan, oil and salt and pepper. Purée until smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl as necessary.

3. Lay the flatbread out onto the prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle with a bit of olive oil. Spread the pesto across the top of the flatbread leaving a 1/2-inch border around the edges. Drop heaping tablespoons of the ricotta onto the pesto. Sprinkle with Asiago and sun-dried tomatoes

4. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the edges of the crust are golden brown and cheese is melted. Remove from oven and sprinkle with chopped basil.

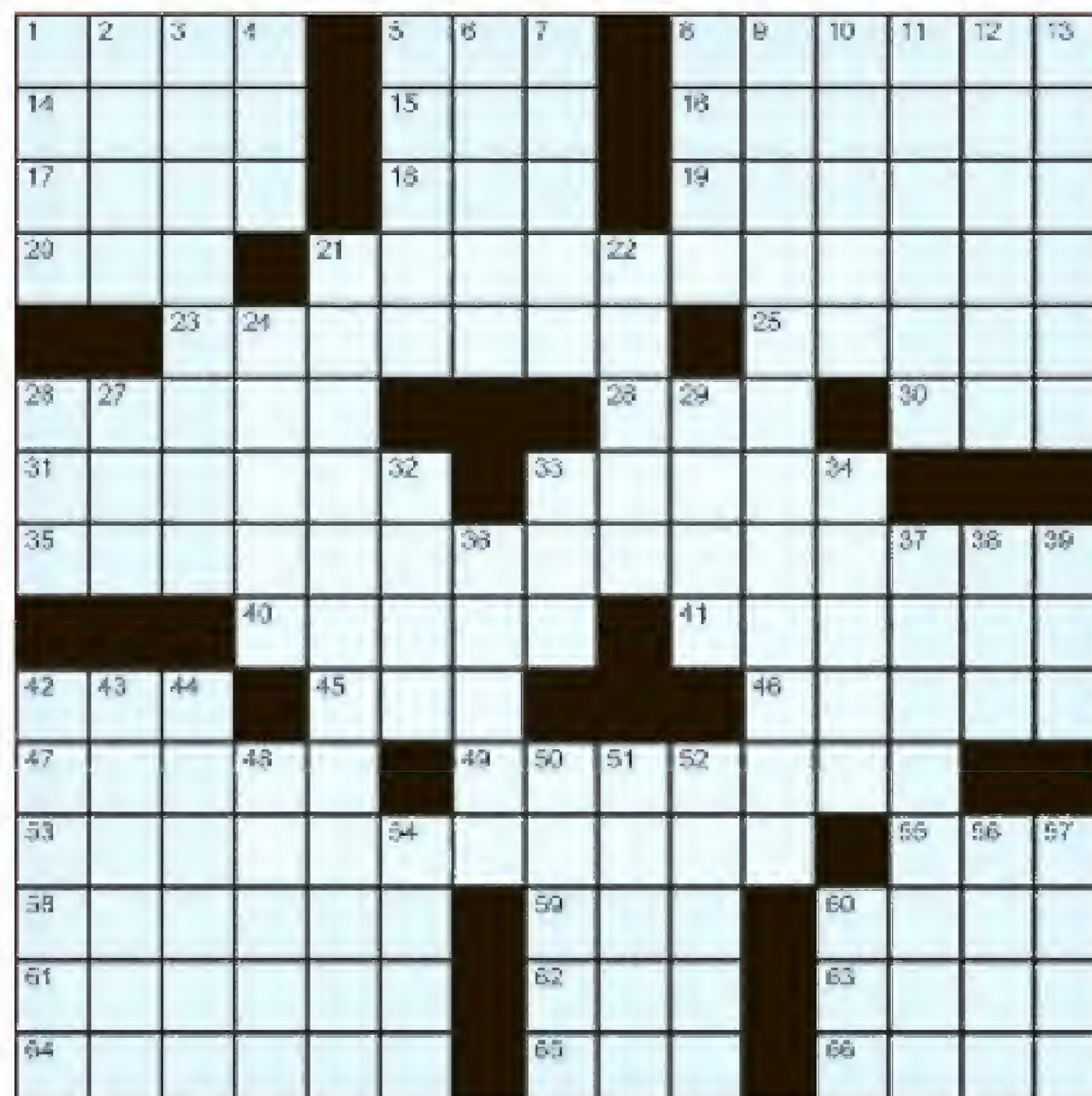
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Colosseum cloak
- Dining room feature, for short
- Meteorite _ site
- Street
- At-sea affirmation
- Ms. Mason of "The Goodbye Girl" (1977)
- Poet Mr. Pound
- Tiny tallness
- Lord's Prayer part: "... _ in heaven."
- Nourished
- Desired results of using hair rollers: 2 wds.
- "That camouflage isn't working!": 3 wds.
- Make _ (Do store business)
- "This _ Love Song" by Bon Jovi
- Driveway topping
- Initials-sharers of Naomi Watts's ex-beau who is an actor
- _ of spades
- Important exam
- "Sparkling" tavern item: 2 wds.
- Nose-in-the-air folks
- Buffalo's hockey players
- UK honour [acronym]
- Extremist org. in 1974 headlines
- "Hud" (1963) Oscar-winner Patricia, and surnamesakes
- "_ Me" by John Legend
- In particular
- Air-circulators-with-



- paddles: 2 wds.
- Certain conifer
- Eagles drummer/singer Don
- Prefix to "light"
- Ballet skirt
- Star: French
- "Abbey Road" tune: "The _"
- "_ fair in love..."

- Does an office task
- Hillary Clinton was a Sen. here
- Tropical vacation spot

DOWN

- Not kosher
- Bleed bit by bit
- Toronto's _ Expressway
- Halifax's famous madam Ms. McCallum (b.1909 - d.1986)
- Chevrolet SUV model

- "Snatch" (2000) directed _ Ritchie
- "_ _ man put asunder."
- "If _ be so bold as to..."
- They're used to help make lashes look lush: 2 wds.
- Toyota hybrid car

- Stellar
- Freezes the food
- Cups, in Quebec City
- _ Historic House (Attraction in Charlottetown, PEI); or, Montreal suburb
- "Soul Meets Body" by Death Cab For _
- Wild guesses
- Flight tower serv.
- Smashing Pumpkins co-founder James
- Conjunctions
- Organic compound
- Alberta's Mc-Murray, et al.
- Record _
- Do _ up job
- Piled-up-with-food carriers
- Conger _
- Web feed syst. for updates
- Stockpiles
- "Baywatch" actress Yasmine
- "Sense and Sensibility" (1995) sister
- "Kukla, Fran and _"
- Frequently
- Like the hue of a lion's coat
- British novelist Ms. Bagnold's
- "The Science Guy" Bill, and surnamesakes
- "_ have to do"
- Ploy
- Mai _ (Cocktail)

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Be patient with family members today to avoid squabbles and arguments. (This is not a good way to start your day — or anyone else's.) Be chill.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you can get past some tension this morning, the rest of the day will be quiet and comforting. In fact, you will want to cocoon at home if you can.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Money disputes or an argument about something you own might occur this morning. Try to move past it so that you can enjoy a busy day full of errands and fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
People are touchy this morning. Give them a wide berth. Later in the day, you will be focused on money and cash flow. Ka-ching!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This morning it's easy to be grumpy. However, soon the Moon moves into your sign, which gives you an advantage over everyone else. Enjoy your good fortune.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Avoid morning arguments with a female acquaintance. Later in the day, do some research or find some privacy, and enjoy being on your own.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You like to keep the peace. Therefore, avoid arguments in the morning, because the rest of the day is warm and friendly.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Steer clear of sensitive subjects like religion, politics and racial issues this morning. Later in the day, bosses, parents and VIPs will talk about you for some reason.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Disputes about shared property might arise this morning. Let these go, because what you really want to do is get out and have a change of scenery today. Do something different.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be patient with partners and close friends this morning. Later today, you might ponder how your values are different from the values of others. We are all unique.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today because the Moon is opposite your sign. This simply requires a little patience and cooperation. No biggie.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Avoid disputes at work this morning. You don't need this! Later today, you will play and schmooze with others, as well as delight in sports or playful activities with children.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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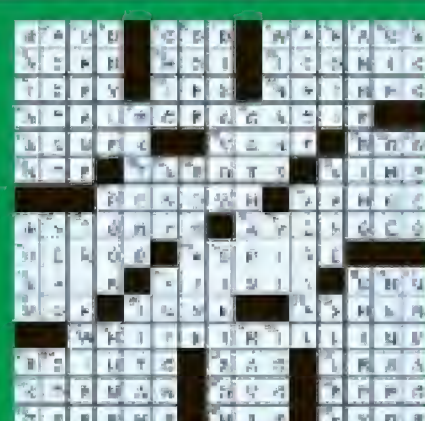
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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8	2	4	9	7	3	5	6	1
7	5	1	2	6	8	4	9	3
6	9	3	4	5	1	8	7	2
5	6	7	1	2	9	3	4	8
4	8	2	5	3	7	9	1	6
1	3	9	6	8	4	7	2	5
2	1	8	7	4	5	6	3	9
9	7	5	3	1	6	2	8	4
3	4	6	8	9	2	1	5	7

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